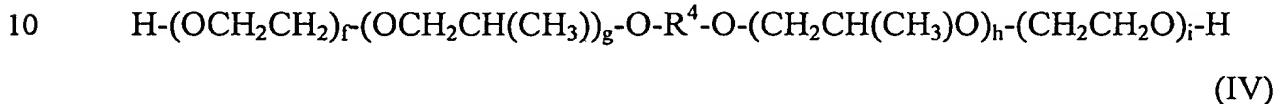
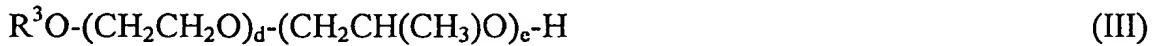
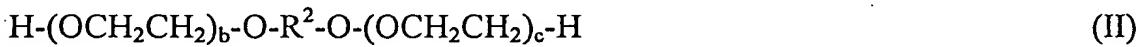


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A water-based ink comprising an aqueous dispersion of fine polymer particles containing a colorant, and at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein each of *a* and *d* is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of *b* and *c* is independently a number of 5 to 20; *e* is a number of 1 to 3; *f* is a number of 5 to 20; each of *g* and *h* is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein *g + h* is a number satisfying 1 to 4; *i* is a number of 5 to 20; each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a monovalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^2 is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^4 is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

2. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.

5 3. The water-based ink according to claim 1, which comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

4. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension of the polyalkylene oxide derivative is at least 50 mN/m at 25°C.